

BRIEFING PAPER FOR THE PRESIDENT'S
PRESS CONFERENCE

May 8, 1963

SUBJECT: Free World Shipping to Cuba

QUESTION: What is the U.S. doing about the increase in free
world ships going to Cuba?

SUGGESTED REPLY:

According to the list maintained by the Maritime Administration, a total of 63 ships registered in nations outside the Sino-Soviet bloc have made one or more trips to Cuba since January 1 of this year. (Four Polish ships also appear on the Maritime Administration list.) We are concerned about the increase in the number of free world ships in the Cuban trade since the low point in January. Some of the increase is related to the seasonal export of the sugar harvest; a number of ships have arrived in ballast (empty) for this purpose. Although all free world shipping to Cuba in the first four months of 1963 is less than one-fourth of the amount in the first third of 1962, we are not content with the present situation and are discussing this subject with the governments concerned.